

By: Senator(s) Dawkins

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING CORPORAL DARWIN MCMAHAN OF THE
2 HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR RECEIVING THE
3 DISTINGUISHED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD BY THE
4 MISSISSIPPI COAST CRIME COMMISSION.

5 WHEREAS, Corporal Darwin McMahan, a Harrison County sheriff's
6 deputy who was shot while assisting another officer, has been
7 named Distinguished Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the
8 Mississippi Coast Crime Commission; and

9 WHEREAS, Governor Haley Barbour commended Corporal McMahan
10 and other officers for protecting the public as he addressed the
11 Crime Commission's 22nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation
12 Breakfast at Treasure Bay Casino Resort; and

13 WHEREAS, Sheriff George H. Payne, Jr., nominated McMahan, who
14 was among 10 finalists. He was shot twice in an exchange of
15 gunfire on December 13, 2003, while he assisted Cpl. Mechelle
16 Carbine in finding out why a guest at Gulfport's Crystal Inn
17 refused to check out. The man refused to show his identification,
18 Payne said, describing how the man pulled out a .44-magnum
19 revolver and began firing at them at close range. Both officers
20 returned fire and the man was fatally wounded, Payne said. The
21 sheriff praised McMahan, a ten-year department veteran, for
22 courage and professionalism; and

23 WHEREAS, McMahan, 40, the father of five, was working two
24 part-time jobs in addition to his patrol job at the time of the
25 shooting. He underwent surgery and recuperated for four months
26 before returning to the Sheriff's Department for a desk job with
27 its Professional Standards Unit last month. His wounds still
28 require physical therapy; and

29 WHEREAS, Bob Waterbury, Coast Crime Commission Executive
30 Director, referred to McMahan and the finalists as "the cream of
31 the crop"; and

32 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the heroism
33 of this law enforcement officer, who has brought honor to his
34 unit, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
36 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Corporal Darwin McMahan of
37 the Harrison County Sheriff's Department for receiving the
38 Distinguished Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by the
39 Mississippi Coast Crime Commission, and extend to him and his
40 family the best wishes of the Senate on a speedy recovery and
41 return to duty.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
43 the Harrison County Sheriff and made available to the Capitol
44 Press Corps.